

Agency: Department of Military and Veterans Affairs**Project Title:**

Alaska National Guard - Rope Course Long Range Planning and Completion

State Funding Requested: \$ 50,000
One-Time Need**House District:** Anchorage Areawide (17-32)**Brief Project Description:**

Funding for Long Range Planning costs for the Rope Course and Counterdrug program.

Funding Plan:**Total Cost of Project: \$50,000**Funding Secured

Amount FY

Other Pending Requests

Amount FY

Anticipated Future Need

Amount FY

There is no other funding needed

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

The National Guard's Rope Course Challenge camp is an integral part of a broader counterdrug program that brings returning service men and woman into contact with young Alaskans to promote healthy lifestyles and anti-substance abuse. This program is important to promoting and protecting the health of young Alaskans.

\$125,000 was secured to install the rope course and \$50,000 is needed to prepare the long range plan for the operations of the Challenge Camp. Funding will provide for a five year plan.

Project Timeline:

Expenditures will occur in calendar year 2009.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Alaska National Guard

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Contact Name: SMSgt William Hall

Phone Number:

Address: P.O. Box 5800, Box 29 Ft. Richardson, AK 99505

Email:

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No



ALASKA NATIONAL GUARD
COUNTERDRUG SUPPORT PROGRAM.
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MEMORANDUM FOR: KATHLEEN PLUNKETT
REPRESENTATIVE KEVIN MEYER
FROM: SMSgt William Hall
Drug Demand Reduction Administrator

24 January 2008

SUBJECT: Rope Course Camp Status

Kathleen,

I am excited to report that our Rope Course Challenge camp is on-speed. It's been an experience getting to the point we presently are, but knowing how much this camp will enhance our ability to reach out to students, the effort will pay great dividends.

I'd like to give you a quick summary of our actions to this point as well as map out our plan for the future.

What have we done to develop the camp and rope course with the initial funding?

We secured the leading adventure learning team, High 5 from Vermont, to draw plans and build our rope challenge course. High 5 is the leading subject matter expert and is nationally recognized for their comprehensive construction and training programs. We've also taken a best practice approach from other guard units to develop our High Alaska Skills Camp. This camp will be a 4-day day camp, which will be held at our facility at Ft. Richardson. Of the initial \$125,000, we've executed \$98,000 towards rope course material acquisition and construction. The remaining \$26,000 will purchase necessary camp material, personal protection equipment, associated climbing equipment and the required training/certification for all DDR personnel.

Is there a timeline for the camp?

Yes, High 5 performed a site survey in July, 2006 to establish the course foot print and to determine element location for optimum use. Dig permits were secured in January, 2007 and the land was cleared in February, 2007. While we were expecting to dig and build in May, the cold temperatures drove the frost line to level which has prohibited us from digging until July. High 5 arrived in July, 2007 and completed construction of the course in late July, 2007.

When do we expect to open our camp?

Our camp was officially opened on 18 August, 2007. We had several community leaders' present, representation from Senator Murkowski's office, State Representative Kevin Meyer, military officials, corporate sponsors and public affairs from the National Guard Bureau and local media. Our first camp is scheduled for initial use on 02 June, 2008.



What is the future for the camp?

As we look forward to a very busy season next year we're also looking into program longevity and sustainability of the camp. In order to maintain a high level of training, maintenance, and safety, we developed, in conjunction with the contractor High 5, a 5 year plan. This plan will enable us to sufficiently prepare for and address the camp needs into 2012. The components of this plan are: annual refresher training and certification for Counterdrug members and routine course maintenance and inspections performed by High 5. These vital functions will assure that all members maintain currency in safety as well as course facilitation instruction. In addition, the 5 year plan will sufficiently address the sustained functionality of the initial investment. The contract will be in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between High 5 and the Alaska National Guard. It will be reviewed and approved by our legal office on a year-to-year basis. Future plans also include expansion as we extend our efforts to rural Alaska with our Red P instruction program. Red P (Rural Education Drug Program) will deliver drug and alcohol awareness programs to rural Alaska via returning soldiers that are currently deployed. These soldiers will be an extension of Counterdrug as they deliver our academic program to schools within their villages. This academic program is called Stay On Track (SOT). Alaska has been chosen as one of 11 pilot states in the nation to implement this program. We've enjoyed great success within the Anchorage School District by having guardsmen instruct this classroom program to over 1000 students since FY06. We hope to build on this success and offer rural students an opportunity to come to Anchorage to participate in the day camp to further build on the academic program success that was initiated in their village.

Is there a cost for long range planning?

Yes, after working to secure a workable plan for both High 5 and the Counterdrug program, an additional investment of \$50,000 is needed. After identifying the best method to comply with the necessary requirements, an up-front cost and subsequent contract is optimal. While an annual budget forecast is manageable, doing so will not ensure timeliness of inspections, will not guarantee services and will not afford proper planning for camp use and could ultimately jeopardize the operation of the camp. The 5 year plan also gives Counterdrug ample time to effectively budget a follow on 3-5 year plan.

When will the training plan be in effect and when will it be revisited?

The training and maintenance plan will commence in calendar year 09 and will run through 2013. In 2011, High 5 will negotiate, with Counterdrug, the additional 5 year plan.

In closing I'd like to take this opportunity to once again say thank you for your continued support to not only our program, but the support you give to the Russian Jack Community Council as well. Our organization has enjoyed a very successful partnership in assisting you by supporting community events that offer drug and alcohol free activities to your communities' youth. We are preparing to take that success to the next level by offering activities, in the way of the camp, to the youth of greater Anchorage, the Mat-Su Valley and the State of Alaska.

Sincerely

WILLIAM C. HALL, SMSgt
Drug Demand Reduction Administrator, AKNG





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